EXCERPTS

(from Portuguese original)

TL 666

Message from Xanana Gusmao

(23) We are happy to present our compliments to the Japanese government, the Diet, the members of solidarity groups and all the people in Japan. It is very well known here that there are many solidarity groups in your country performing various support activities, and we would like to show our high appreciation to the position adopted recently by the Diet of the present government. We would like to thank you very much, and we hope further activities will be carried out in the pursuit of a solution to the problems in East Timor.

(148) The present international political situation makes us believe that our problem is on the way to an integrated efforts in order to achieve a solution acceptable by the whole international community. We always stood up for a dialogue, and lately we even made proposals for a chance of an unconditioned talk.

(236) We are ready to discuss all the possibilities that are fair.

(244) We believe that the Japanese government can play a very decisive role in our problem, while, at the same time, we recognize that the United States and Japan are both economic powers having a very intense relationship with

Indonesia. We are very much aware of this fact. However, we also believe that we should not forget the possibilities of adjustment of issues and interests. We are sure that our potential economy may help increase Japanese feelings to a more intense relationship with us, because this is a potential that bears all the future prospects. In this sense, the Japanese government can certainly act in more influential way, and urge Jakarta for a dialogue.

(437) At the round of talks, we can discuss everything. We are well aware of the problems in Indonesia; and our problem is that we are barred from exercising our own rights. There are always formula to attend to various kinds of interests to all the parties concerned. In this sense, we would like to appeal particularly to the Japanese government and to the Diet, and to the Japanese people, to feel the suffering of the Maubere people.

(536) We know many solidarity organizations exist in Japan, and with our heartfelt gratitude, we would like also, to ask for a more practical aid in order to support our struggle. We need many things, we are very poor. We did never had a support from abroad save diplomatic or political help. Our condition of fight needs help in a much larger scale, and we are sure that the Japanese people are able to cooperate

performing actions in more practical way. Later, we will define how this should be done.
We feel very much obliged and very much confident that Japan can, together with people of the solidarity groups, bring into reality our plead, and in this way, we can feel confident of your support. We expect and would like to ask for more actions from solidarity groups in your country.

(700) These are the words which we expect to be sent to the people in your country. We feel very very happy to be able to meet all of you.
We find ourselves in a very difficult, terribly difficult situation.

(722) We had been facing truly big problems. Our army is very small, but our determination continues being the same, as it always was since the beginning of the struggle.

(1123) Our situation is extremely difficult, but we are prepared to continue the battle, until all international community will urge and force Indonesia to accept a round of talk for a dialogue.

(1148) This is the political situation of our people in the whole country. Popular organization has achieved its climax

now, and we are using this situation to the maximum.

(1218) We are acting in shadow being called as clandestine, in a situation permitted only if not for the political conscience of our people. Only for this reason, we feel we can fight using weapons, while, on the other hand, we perform other political actions, coordenate activities, et al.

(1304) This is a global summary of our struggle. In the military aspects we find many difficulties, but we had been able to continue and maintain our resistance so far.

(1328) In the political aspects, our prospective is more and more moving forward. This is more or less the situation of our struggle.

(1345) - Do you have any more questions?

- How about a message to the United Nations?

Well, right now I have no message because I came back from an operation right this morning. I had no time to prepare it.

(1544) However, I believe that the general-secretary of the United Nations, based on the mandate issued by the

Resolution 37/30 approved during the general assembly of the United Nations, and based on his commitment made during the visit of PET, continues supporting the resolutions taken on East Timor, and in recognition of his efforts lately accomplished for the realization of the visit by Portuguese Parlamentary Delegation to this country, we are very much certain that the secretary-general will continue carrying on his service to the solution of our problems, to the solution of the problems of East Timor.

(1651) We would like to once again, ask to the general secretary of the United Nations, to make efforts to obtain from Indonesia, the Jakarta government, viabilities that will allow the visit of Portuguese delegation to this country, an assertion otherwise made by him in previous declaration.

(1714) This is because we think that the knowledge of live reality, a factual and objective knowledge of what is really going on in East Timor will help the problem to receive another ground of level of treatment.

(1753) Also, we would like to remember to the secretary-general of the United Nations that the people of East Timor are the most interested party to the solution of this

problem. They truly need someone representing themselves in the talks in order to achieve a solution acceptable by the international community. We continue to sustain our position for an unconditioned round of talks.

(1834) We are prepared to discuss all the possibilities and the problems. In this sense, we would like to renew our confidence in the person of the secretary-general of the United Nations with the hope that as he has always asserted, the visit of Portuguese Parlamentary Delegation will be realized, as it may constitute a base for a change, not only of the attitudes but of the knowledge in the treatment of our present problem.
This is our message to the United Nations.

(048) What is the opinion of the people of Timor after the Iran-Iraq and the Gulf war?
It is difficult to answer, but in terms of principle, we can say that they are the same.

(145) It is well known that frequently a principle is treated according to interests. However, if a principle is universal and expected to attend all the people regardless of size and wealth, then, in terms of principle, both cases are equal. The universal principle, the international rights

were violated in this war. The invasion ocurred in the same way as it ocurred in East Timor when it was attacked by Indonesia. Iraq invaded Kuwait, forcibly integrated it, installed a puppet government and claimed it one of their states. What happened there was the violation of border line, the fact that also took place in East Timor which was claimed as an Indonesian state, when actually it was a Portuguese territory. What has happened in both cases is identical. Violation and disregard of universal principle.

(313) Iraq said that Kuwait became independent proclaiming itself autonomous, but this can never be an excuse in the case of invasion of East Timor, since in conformity to the regulations ruled out by the Portuguese government for decolonization, this forced invasion by Indonesia is completely against the rule.

(355) In the Kuwait case, we can only say that while the international community reacted strongly to the issue, our case was totally ignored, did not call any interest from any part of the world, and from the Japanese Government inclusive.

(421) Lately, we have seen some progress in the situation since the visit by the Portuguese prime minister Lopes Silva

to Tokyo, because the prime minister Kaifu decided to support our negotiation. We hope Tokyo will continue with this attitude, since it can also help guarantee the Japanese economic rights and its international rights.
We believe, and we fight.

(512) If possible, in a very near future, we hope to maintain a very stable economic relationship with Japan. We have our oil and diamond presently explored by Indonesia. We, small people of East Timor, we have all the things necessary for self-sufficiency. Also, we would like to express our wishes to have the liberty to be a part of Asia. What we know is very limited, but we understand economic complexities circulate in the world outside, such as the establishment of economic blocks.

(619) We know there are moves concerning formation of an economic block including Asia and South Pacific, which is only natural since we cannot live alone. We need to live side by side involved in these intricated economic relationships. The Japanese companies are very much welcome in East Timor.

(701) East Timor and Japan had a relationship once in the

past history. Our land was invaded by Japan, however, this is a thing of the past. Today, we feel very grateful to the new Japanese generation, which feels for our people, which recognizes that there exists a small people asking for help from Japan in the remote region of Asia.

(746) We felt very much when a Japanese war veteran made a testimony in front of the decolonization comission, and wept together with those who has fought in Timor.

(808) We feel so because we know that the history is made by human beings, by all the people, and if there are matters to be corrected, why should not we, the Maubere as well as the Japanese people do it?

(832) The Iraq invasion to Kuwait, though did not have direct connection to our reality, fortunately it has helped to create an international climate favourable to us.

(851) The Iraq invasion, looked from political and diplomatic point of view, helped to support our struggle from every juridical standpoint.

(902) The invasion generated Kurdish problems, consequently bringing Kurd people in the center of worldwide attention.

Maubere is a very small people, so small that it may be forgotten in the light of interests, of economic interests. We know it very well, but still the justice must be accomplished.

(934) A justice may be imposed in the form of indemnification or compensation for wrongdoings, but also, it may be represented in the form of repairing the faults which was commited in the past. We may start in a wrong way, and lately correct that way. Isn't it the another true aspect of a justice? We believe that this is what has happened with Kuwait. But then, what about Timor? Everybody saw the difference shown by the international community in the treatment of this issue. We are so disapponted and feel so deeply sad for the difference of weight given to the Kuwait case and Timor East, despite we understand well the reason, viewed from the matters of interest, from the immensity of economic strategies concerned.

(1046) But our discriminated feelings became much more stronger when a complete silence prevailed over our fate, over the suffering of East Timor.

english translation
by non-native speakers

Jean [English]